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Naabik'iyátí' Committee issues directive to hold public hearings regarding the \$554 million Trust Mismanagement Agreement

WINDOW ROCK – Last Thursday, Naabik'iyátí' Committee members issued a directive to the Office of the Speaker to initiate public hearings regarding the anticipated \$554 million award to the Navajo Nation in its Trust Mismanagement Litigation agreement.

In addition, the directive proposed by Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) also calls for public hearings to be held.

The Navajo Nation Council approved the terms of the agreement on May 30, which was later signed into law by President Ben Shelly.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Navajo Nation is expected to receive a total of \$554 million, representing the largest recovery of any Indian Nation in any breach of trust litigation with the United States government.

Speaker Pro Tem LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) said the Office of the Speaker will release a schedule of the public hearings which will include each of the five Navajo Agencies.

“Our intention is to inform the Navajo people and provide the opportunity to voice their thoughts and recommendations.” said Pro Tem Bates. “It’s very important that we develop a responsible and careful plan that benefits Navajo people.”

Naabik'iyátí' Committee voted 10-3 in favor of the directive. A tentative schedule of public hearings is forthcoming.

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